

Save the Indian, Save the Man

A Social Justice Perspective on Suicide Prevention

Shelby Rowe, Chickasaw



Truth Interlude

by SupaMan

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😊

































































The Beautiful Natives You have Just Seen are All Active Members of the Following Tribes

- Choctaw
- Chickasaw
- Muscogee(Creek)
- Seminole
- Cherokee
- Pawnee
- Iowa
- Otoe Missouri
- Caddo
- Wampanoag
- Mi'kmaq
- Wyumpum
- Palouse
- Umatila
- Mississippi Band Choctaw
- Kiowa
- Ojibwe
- Odawa tribe of Grand River Band
- Navajo
- Yakama
- Yurok
- And so many more!

DISCLAIMER: This Presentation DOES NOT Represent....

- My Employer
- All Indigenous Peoples
- My Tribe
- My Family
- My Friends

“The Only Good Indian
Is a Dead Indian”

“I don’t go so far as to say the only good Indians is a dead Indians, but I believe 9 out of every 10 are, and I shouldn’t like to inquire too closely into the case of the 10th.”

Theodore Roosevelt, 1886

Kill the Indian, Save the Man



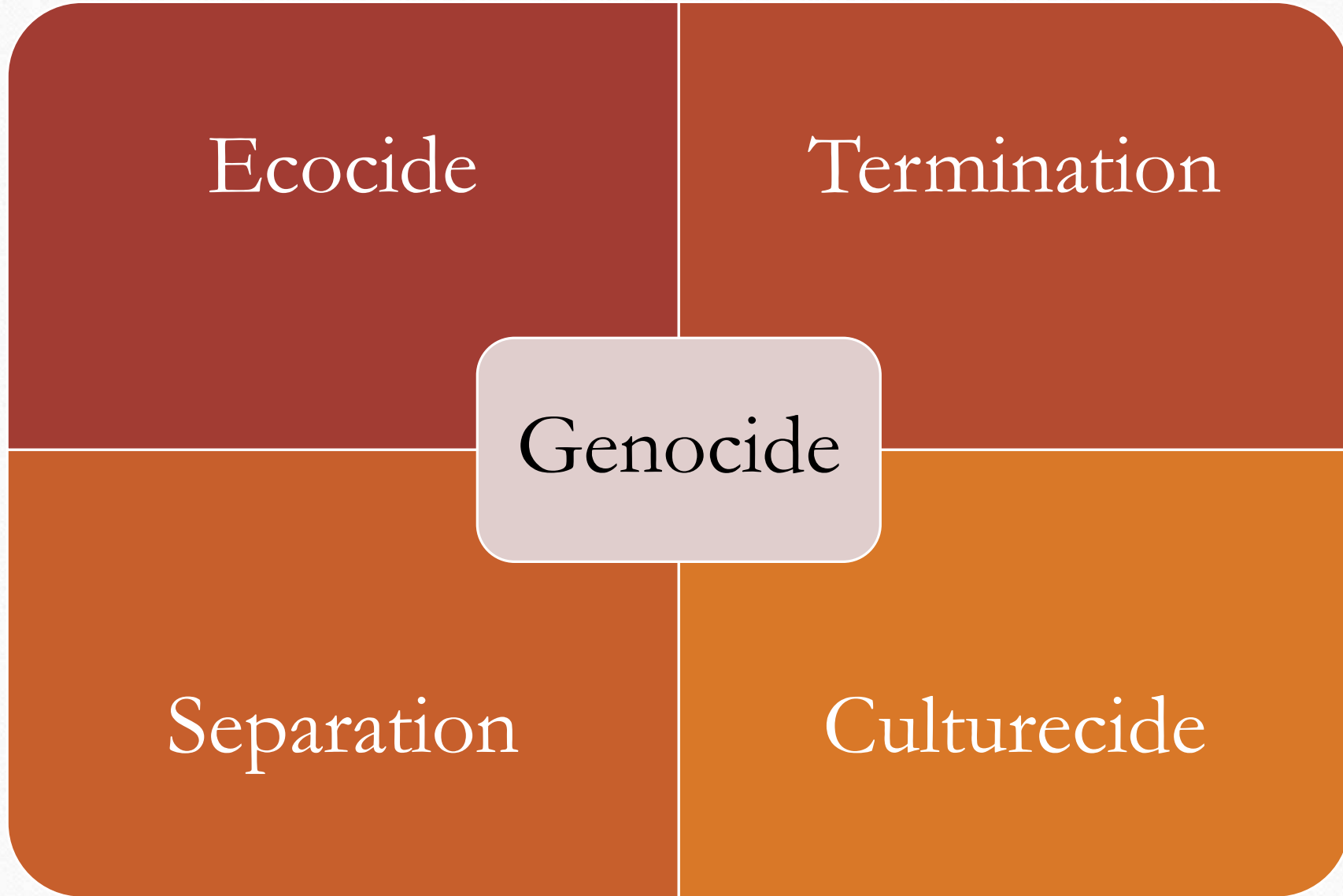
Ecocide

Termination

Genocide

Separation

Culturecide





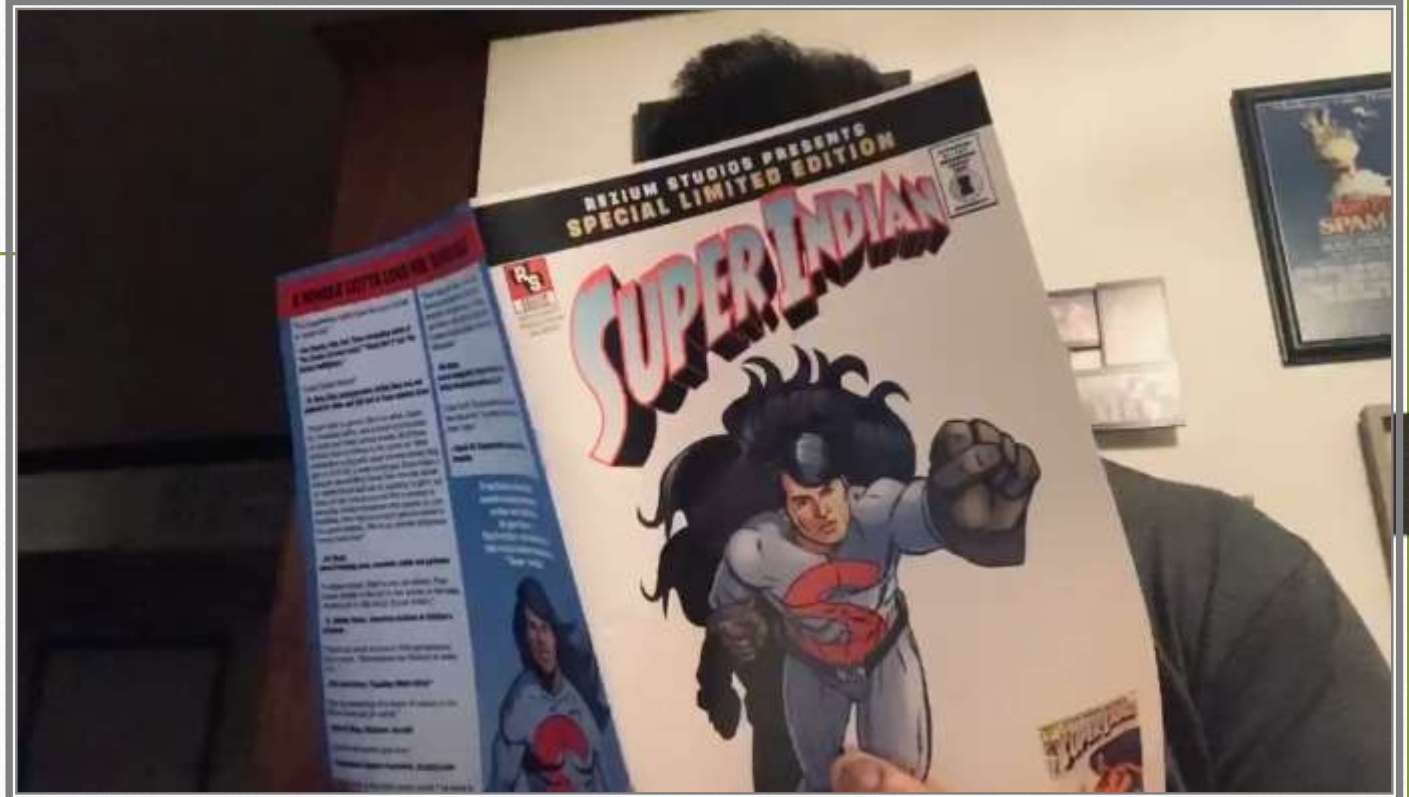
Important Dates in Native Oppression

- 1776 -Declaration of Independence
- 1830 – Indian Removal Act
- 1830 – “Indian Territory” Created
- 1860 – Boarding School Era Begins
- 1884 – “Pagan” Ceremonies Banned
- 1887 – Dawes Act
- 1892 – Prison or Death or Advocating Indian Beliefs, Dancing or Performing Ceremonies
- 1902 – Ban on Indigenous Hairstyles

Let's Add Some Music

Because this is getting heavy...

Indian Relocation Act of 1956

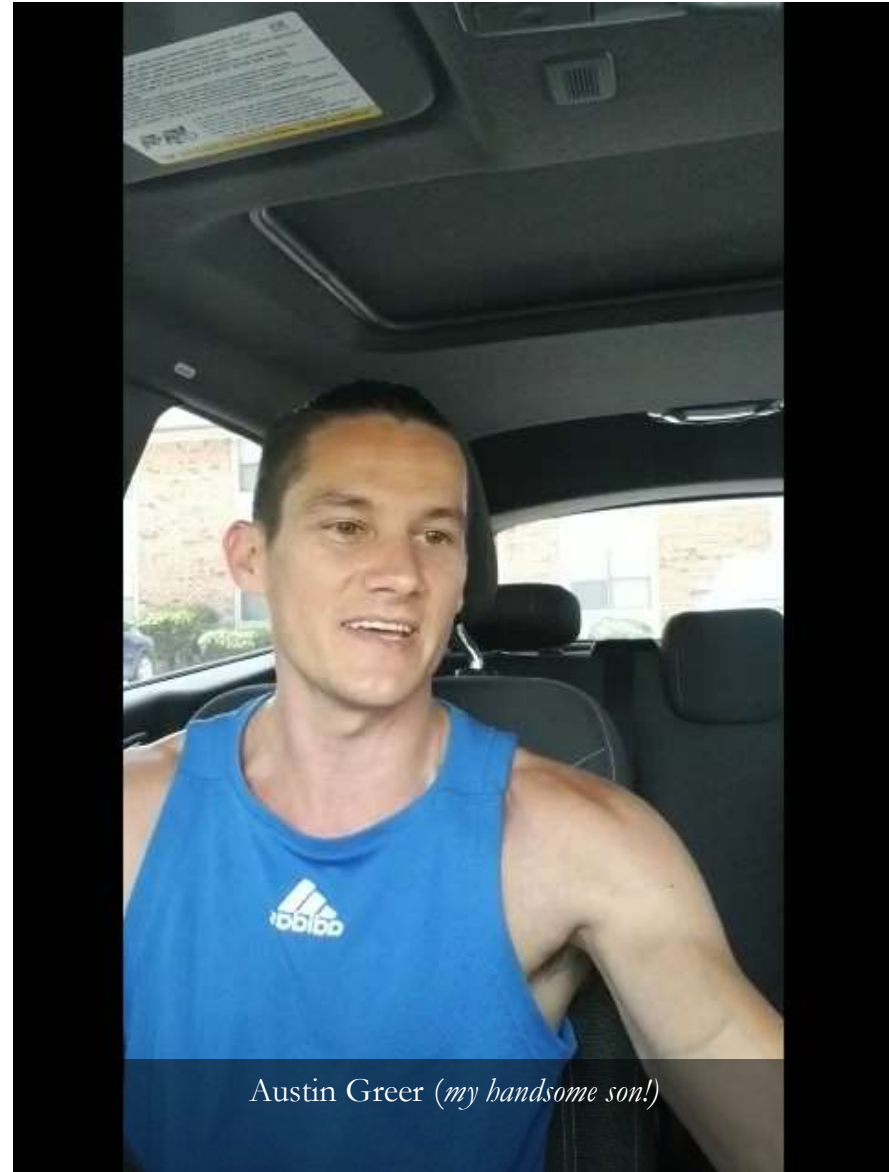


Tommy Cummings

Unauthorized Forced Sterilization of Native Women

1960's & 70's

Uncovered and Ended in
1976



Austin Greer (*my handsome son!*)



1978

American Indian Religious
Freedoms Act

Indian Child Welfare Act

Tabitha Littlefield (*My beautiful niece!*)

1990

Native American Graves & Repatriation Act



Angelina Villegas-Cummings

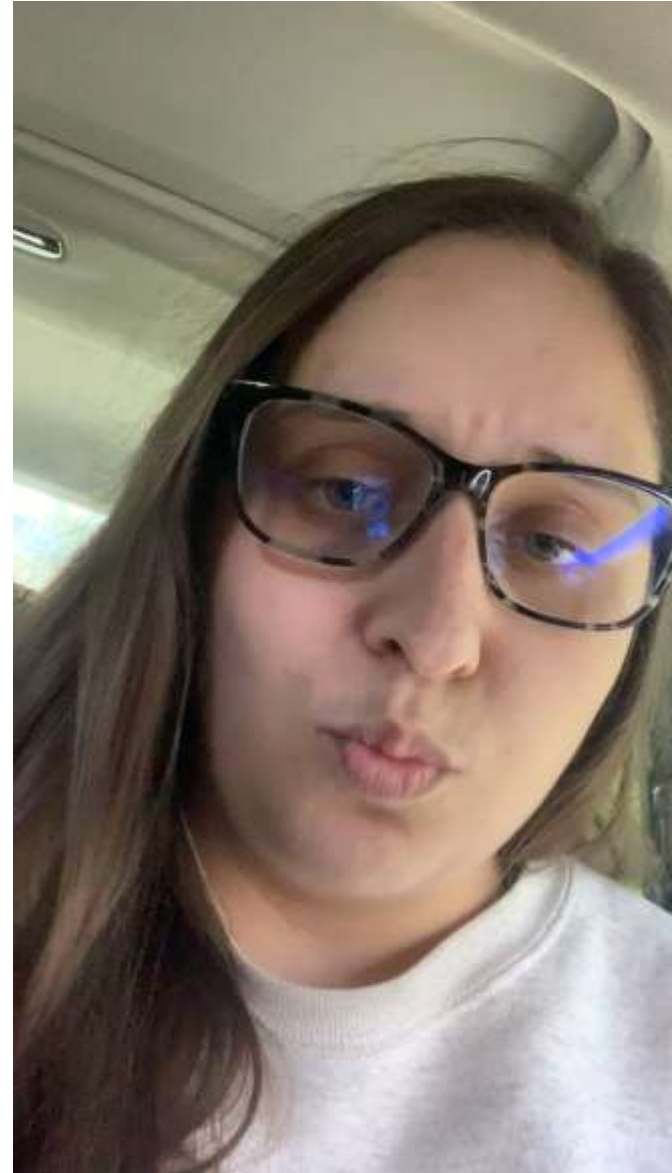


Kristen Ellis

Dakota Access Pipeline Protests

April 2016 – February 2017

In 2020, the Bureau of
Indian Affairs
attempted to revoke the
reservation status of the
312 acres in Cape Cod
occupied by the
Mashpee Wampanoag
Indians for 12,000 years



Betsy Grace Waller

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 18–9526

JIMCY MCGIRT, PETITIONER *v.* OKLAHOMA

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL
APPEALS OF OKLAHOMA

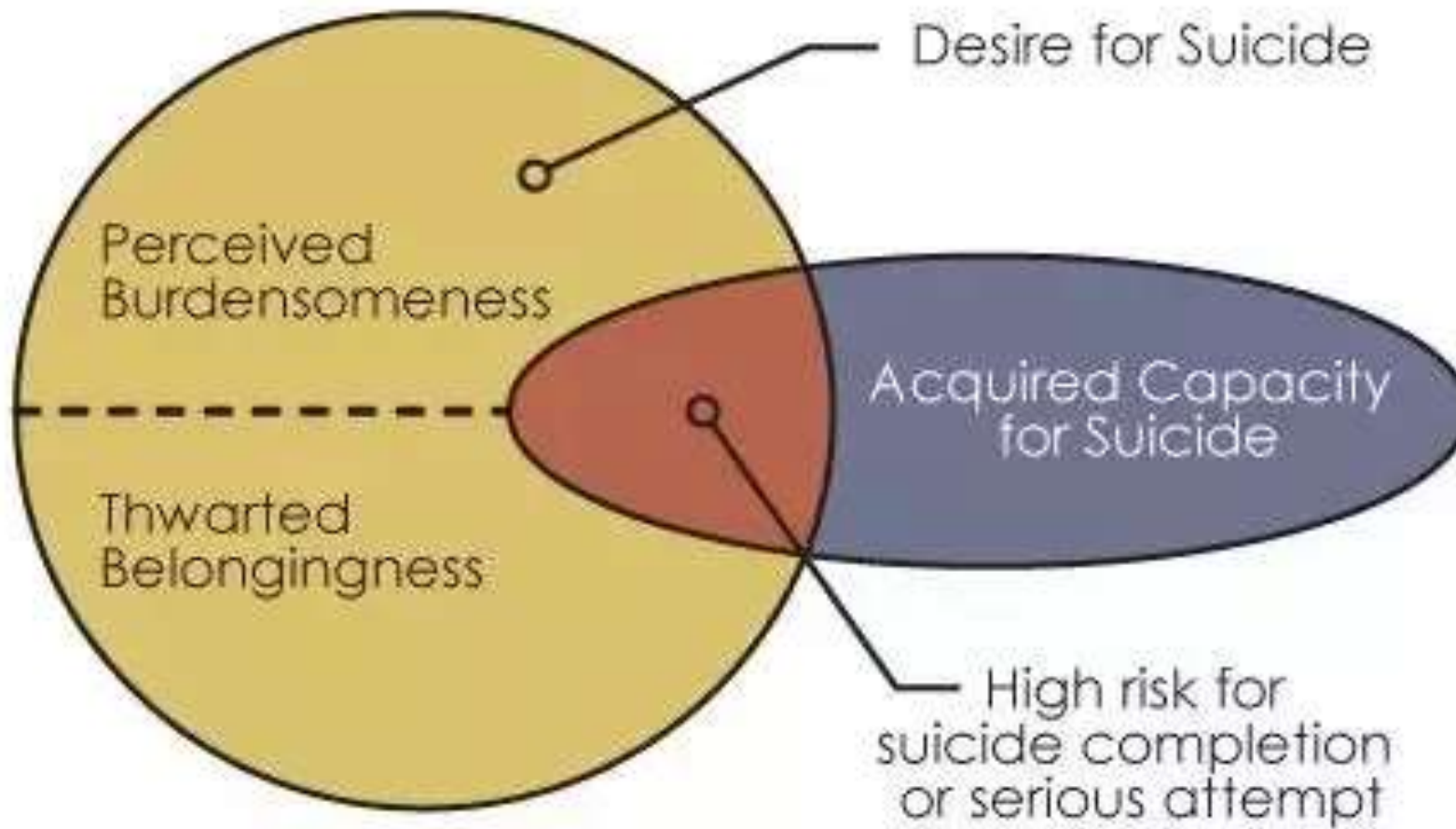
[July 9, 2020]

JUSTICE GORSUCH delivered the opinion of the Court.

On the far end of the Trail of Tears was a promise. Forced to leave their ancestral lands in Georgia and Alabama, the Creek Nation received assurances that their new lands in the West would be secure forever. In exchange for ceding “all their land, East of the Mississippi river,” the U. S. government agreed by treaty that “[t]he Creek country west of the Mississippi shall be solemnly guarantied to the Creek Indians.” Treaty With the Creeks, Arts. I, XIV, Mar. 24,

You Cannot Have Trauma Informed Suicide Prevention or Mental Health Care Without Justice

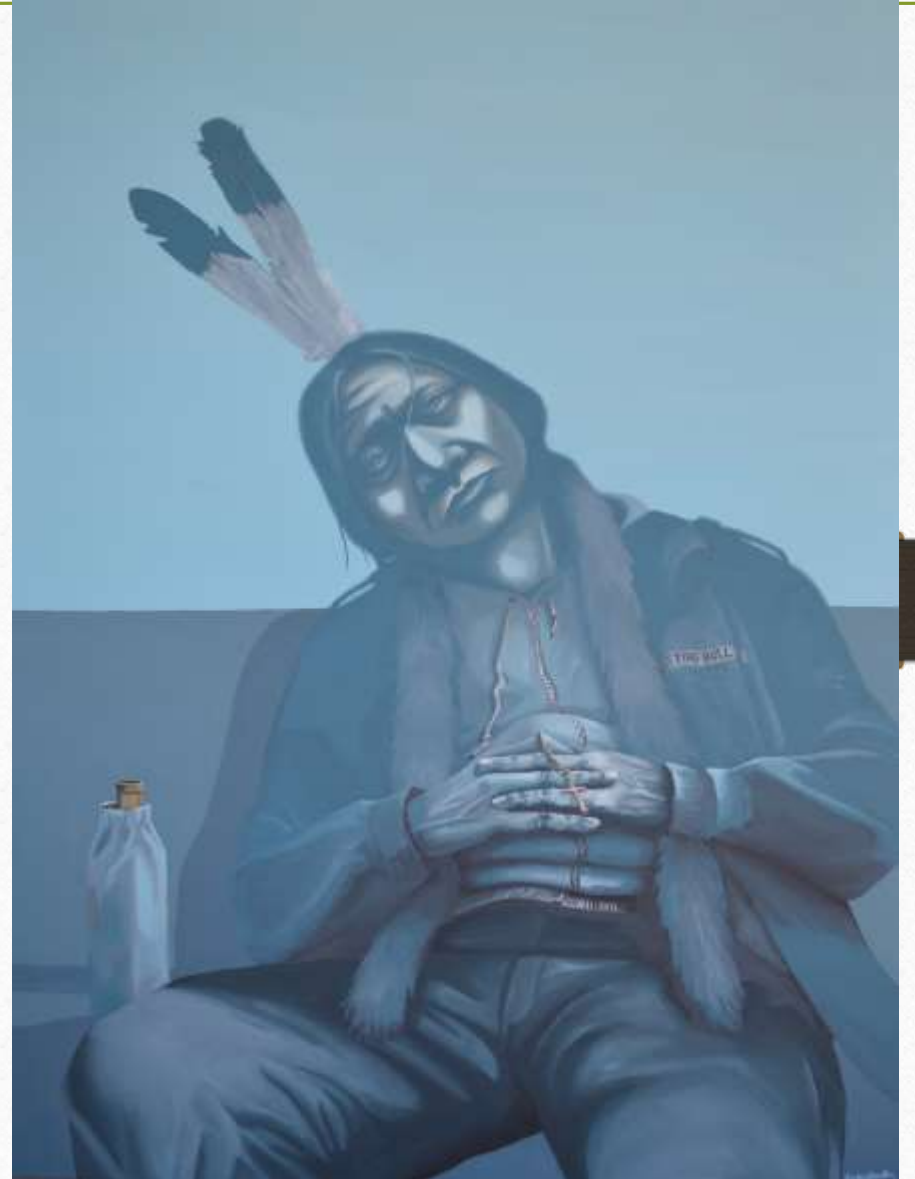
And for the Peoples Indigenous to This Continent
There has Never Been Justice



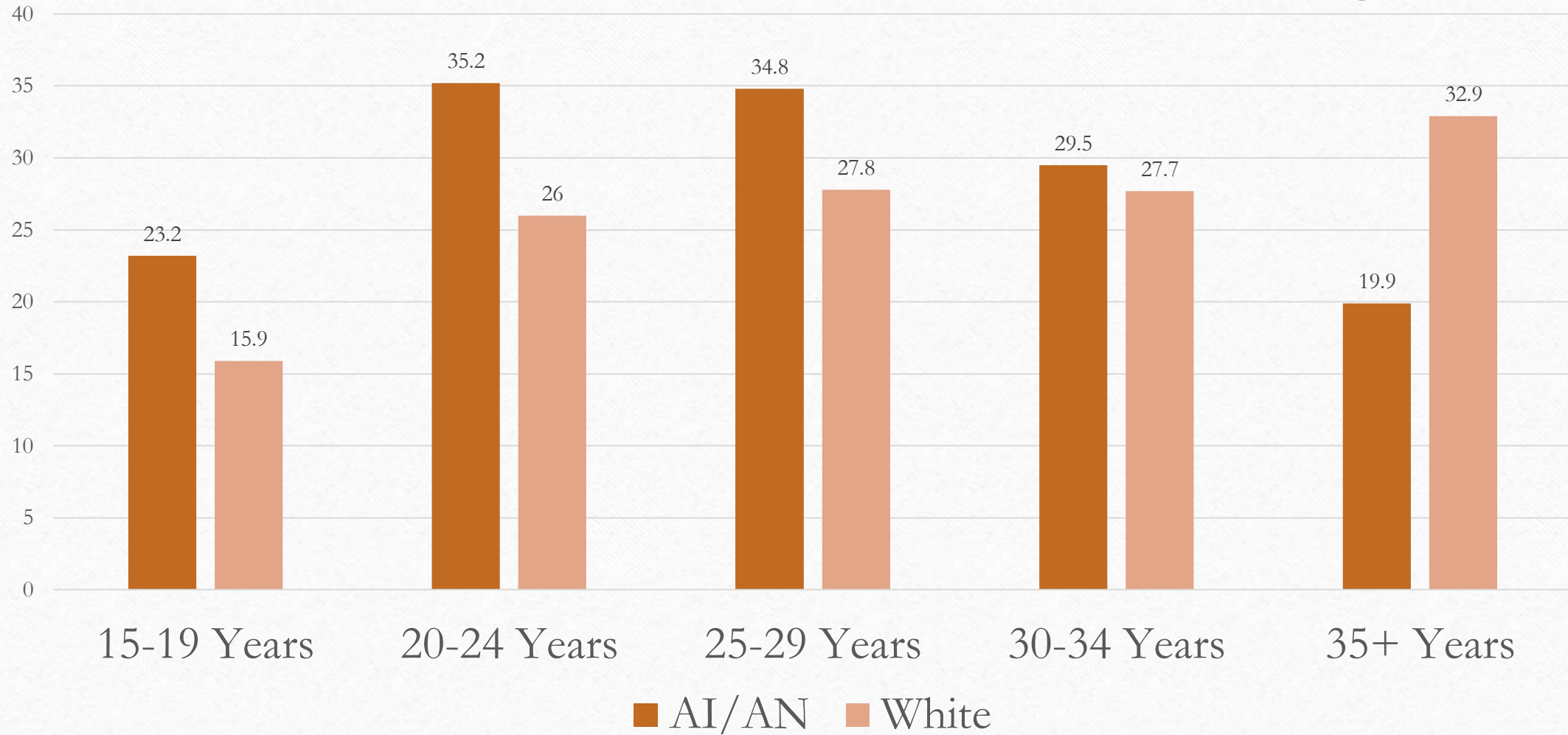
Big (Not So
Surprising) News:

Killing the Indian
Actually **DOES**
Kill the Man

Artist: Bunky Echo Hawk (Pawnee/Yakama)

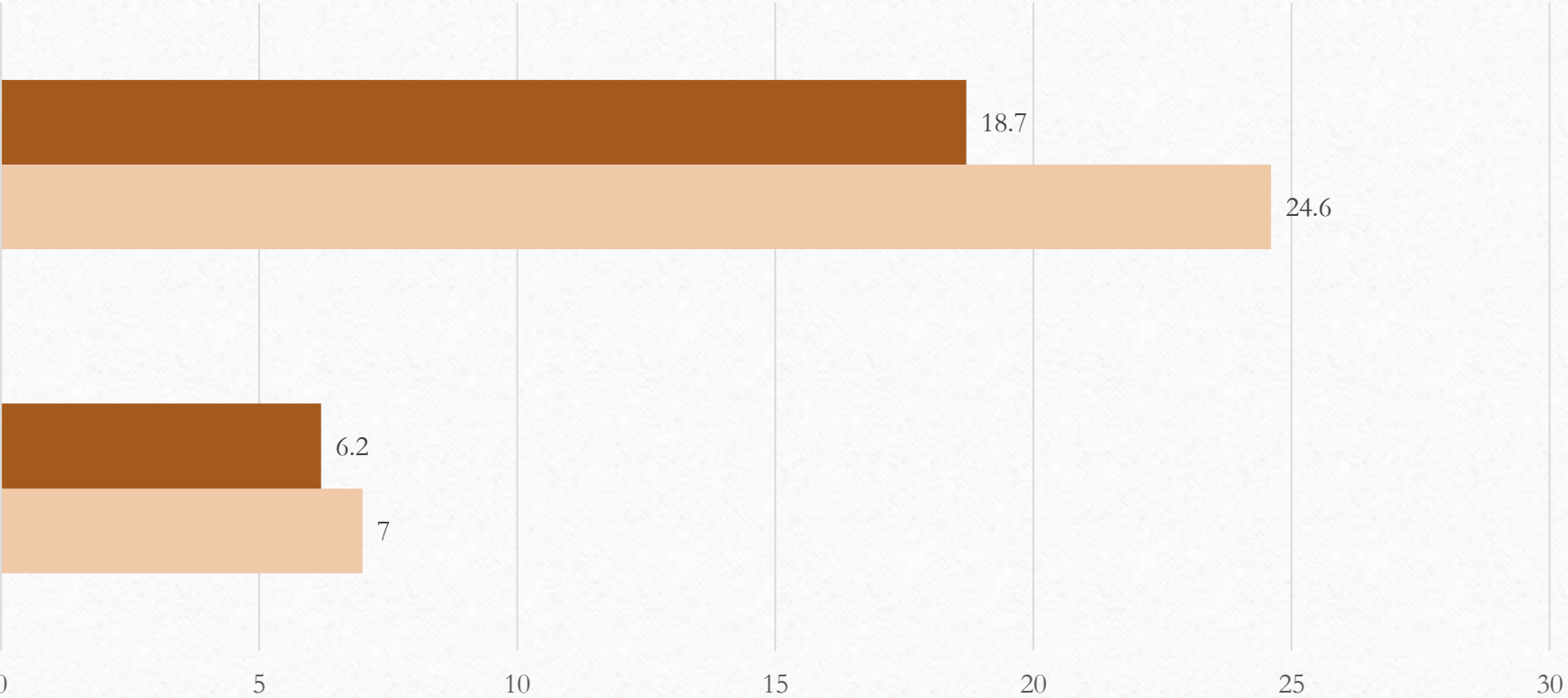


2013-2017 Male Suicide Crude Rates by Race & Age



2013-2017 Suicide Crude Rates by Gender & Race, All Ages

Male



Female



■ AI/AN ■ White

Don't Believe the Stereotypes

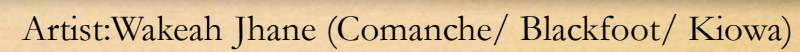
From 2009-14, among AI/ANs living in urban areas, 44.2% reported using alcohol in the past month, which is significantly lower than 59.5% of NHW.



It's Not What's Wrong With us, It's
What Happened and
is **STILL** Happening to Us

Adaptive vs Maladaptive Survival instinct





Historic Trauma Responses (HTR)

- Survivor guilt
- Depression
- Sometimes PTSD symptoms
- Psychic numbing
- Fixation to trauma
- Somatic (physical) symptoms
- Low self-esteem
- Victim Identity
- Anger
- Self-destructive behavior including substance abuse
- Suicidal ideation
- Hypervigilance
- Intense fear
- Dissociation
- Compensatory fantasies
- Poor affect (emotion) tolerance

(Maria Yellowhorse Braveheart, 1998, 1999, 2000)

The difference between a tragic tale
& an inspiring story is how it is told

It's Time to Tell a Different Story



Artist: Steven Paul Judd (Choctaw/Kiowa)

We Have Survived

We are our
Ancestors
Wildest Dream
Come to Life



Blood Wise

by Rebecca Hatcher Travis, Chickasaw

green rolling hills with sacred mounds

ceremony and forbidden ways

the blood remembers

what memory does not

like the instinct to survive

intuition confirms

our deepest knowledge

we understand where we belong







Our Cultures Continue to Evolve





Just a Few of Our Strengths

- Extended Family/Kinship Ties
- Wellness as balance, not just the absence of illness
- Shared sense of collective community responsibility
- Physical resources (food, plant, animal, water)
 - Indigenous knowledge/wisdom
- Survival skills and resiliency in face of multiple challenges
- Retention and reclamation of traditional language and cultural practices
 - Ability to walk in two worlds
 - Community Pride

American Indian Culture Guide, OSDH














We Are Extraordinary
Survivors

**We are Not the Problems to Solve,
We are the Answers to Discover**

Today is a good day to wear your resilience
like it has been prayerfully woven for you by
the blood memory of your ancestors

Johnna James, Chickasaw

Yakoke (Thank You)

Chi'Pisa La'Cho!

(See you later!)

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